

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

LICENSING BOARD

FOR THE

CITY OF BOSTON

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1932



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

December 1, 1932.

To His Excellency JOSEPH B. ELY, *Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

Sir:—The Licensing Board for the City of Boston respectfully submits its twenty-seventh annual report covering the year ending November 30, 1932.

PERSONNEL OF THE BOARD

David T. Montague, Chairman, Arthur J. Selfridge, Mary E. Driscoll, constitute the present Board.

FINANCIAL

Receipts and disbursements for the year ending November 30, 1932:

Miscellaneous licenses	\$48,704.00	
Liquor licenses	2,087.50	
Miscellaneous receipts	262.00	
		\$51,053.50
Expenses of the Board, salaries, rent, lights, etc.		31,520.07
Excess receipts over expenditures		\$19,533.43

LICENSES GRANTED BY THE BOARD

1. Third-class liquor, retail druggists	248
2. Fourth-class liquor, wholesale dealers	7
3. Fifth-class, industrial alcohol	1
4. Soft drinks	2,538
5. Innholders and common victualers	2,802
6. Lodging houses	3,294
7. Intelligence offices	111
8. Sale of firearms	14
9. Billiard and pool tables and bowling alleys	314
10. Ferris wheels and merry-go-rounds	3
11. Picnic groves	3
12. Sunday sale of ice cream, confectionery, soda water and fruit	2,410
13. Entertainment required by Chap. 299, Acts of 1926	152
14. Roller Skating Rinks	2

Total number of applications acted on during the year:

Granted, 11,899. Rejected, 285. Total, 12,184.

The Board has held 397 formal hearings during the year in addition to many informal conferences.

HEARINGS

KIND OF LICENSE	NUMBER	ACTION TAKEN
Third-class druggists	3	Revoked
Third-class druggists	1	Granted after a hearing
Third-class druggists	1	Rejected after a hearing
Third-class druggists	1	Placed on file
Third-class druggists	1	Dismissed
Third-class druggists	1	Suspended 1 month
Innholders	1	Dismissed
Innholders	1	Placed on file, cautioned
Innholders	3	Revoked (sentence suspended)
Common victualers	15	Revoked
Common victualers	21	Revoked (sentence suspended)
Common victualers	2	Suspended 1 month
Common victualers	2	Suspended 2 weeks
Common victualers	5	Suspended 1 week
Common victualers	4	Suspended 3 days
Common victualers	1	Suspended 2 days
Common victualers	9	Miscellaneous
Common victualers	6	Placed on file, cautioned
Common victualers	18	Granted after a hearing
Common victualers	14	Rejected after a hearing
Common victualers	4	Dismissed
Common victualers	4	Restricted
Fruit, etc.	11	Revoked
Fruit, etc.	23	Revoked (sentence suspended)
Fruit, etc.	3	Suspended 2 weeks
Fruit, etc.	6	Suspended 1 week
Fruit, etc.	1	Suspended 3 days
Fruit, etc.	3	Suspended balance of license year
Fruit, etc.	12	Placed on file, cautioned
Fruit, etc.	8	Granted after a hearing
Fruit, etc.	9	Rejected after a hearing
Fruit, etc.	2	Dismissed
Billiard, etc.	5	Revoked (sentence suspended)
Billiard, etc.	2	Granted after a hearing
Billiard, etc.	2	Rejected after a hearing
Billiard, etc.	4	Dismissed
Billiard, etc.	1	Withdrawn
Lodging Houses	11	Revoked
Lodging Houses	20	Revoked (sentence suspended)
Lodging Houses	9	Placed on file, cautioned
Lodging Houses	3	Granted after a hearing
Lodging Houses	4	Rejected after a hearing
Lodging Houses	38	Dismissed
Soft Drinks	13	Revoked
Soft Drinks	25	Revoked (sentence suspended)
Soft Drinks	3	Suspended 2 weeks
Soft Drinks	6	Suspended 1 week
Soft Drinks	1	Suspended 3 days
Soft Drinks	12	Placed on file, cautioned
Soft Drinks	12	Granted after a hearing
Soft Drinks	5	Rejected after a hearing
Soft Drinks	4	Dismissed
Intelligence Offices	3	Dismissed
Intelligence Offices	1	Withdrawn
Entertainment, etc.	3	Granted after a hearing
Entertainment, etc.	1	Rejected after a hearing
Entertainment, etc.	2	Revoked
Entertainment, etc.	1	Revoked (sentence suspended)
Entertainment, etc.	5	Placed on file, cautioned
Entertainment, etc.	6	Restricted
Entertainment, etc.	1	Suspended 1 week
Merry-go-round	1	Granted for July 4 after a hearing

397

NOTE.—In 34 cases the Board suspended the license for a definite term and on the termination of the suspension the license was revoked but the revocation suspended.

TABLE 1.—LIQUOR

The following is a classified list of the licenses in force November 30, 1932.

Fourth-class dealers	3	Fifth-class license	1
Fourth-class druggists	3	Third-class druggists	234

241

*Number of Licenses Issued and Amount Paid into the Treasury from
December 1, 1931 to December 1, 1932*

3	Fourth-class dealers, at \$300	\$900.00
1	fourth-class dealer, at \$300	38.50
3	fourth-class druggists, at \$300	900.00
248	third-class druggists, at \$1	248.00
1	fifth-class license, at \$1	1.00

Total \$2,087.50

Liquor licenses are issued under the Massachusetts Liquor Law subject to Federal laws and regulations. The fee for a third and a fifth-class license is fixed by the statute at one dollar.

TABLE 2.—COMMON VICTUALERS AND INNHOLDERS

Common Victualers

Applications granted	2,745
Places licensed	2,305
Canceled:	
Surrendered	325
For non-payment	100
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	425
Rejected	79
Revoked	15
Transferred	57
Withdrawn	6
Fees collected * †	\$13,245.00

Of the licenses granted, 40 were for dining cars, 36 of which are in actual operation.

* 4 (1931) licenses paid—2 (1931) licenses unpaid and canceled.

† 2 reconsidered and rejected.

Innholders

Applications granted	57
Places licensed	50
Canceled:	
Surrendered	7
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	7
Rejected	1
Transferred	1
Withdrawn	3
Fees collected	\$285.00

The fee fixed by Statute is not to exceed \$5.

TABLE 3.—BILLIARD, POOL AND SIPPIO TABLES AND BOWLING ALLEYS

Applications granted	275
Clubs	39
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	314
Places licensed	234
Places licensed (clubs)	37
Canceled:	
Surrendered	18
For non-payment	17
	<hr/>
	35
Rejected	12
Transferred	5
Withdrawn	12
Additional	8

Number of Tables and Alleys

Billiards	254
Pool	1,104
Bowling alleys	745

Canceled for non-payment:

18 Billiard, 68 Pool, 59 Bowling Alleys.

Fees collected* \$9,760.00

The fee established by the Board is \$5 for each table and alley.

* 1 (1932) license unpaid.

TABLE 4.—INTELLIGENCE OFFICES

Applications granted	111
Places licensed	95
Canceled:	

Surrendered:	Class 1	1
	Class 3	1
For non-payment:	Class 1	7
	Class 2	3

Rejected (Class 2)	12
Transfers granted	1

Withdrawn (Class 2 . . . 1) (Class 3 . . . 2)	15
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Fees collected	3
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Of the applications granted \$4,800.00

51 were first-class \$3,825

45 were second-class 1,575

15 were third-class 30

The fee established by the Board is \$75 for a first-class license; \$35 for a second-class license; and \$2 for a third-class license.

4 licensed places hold two classes of licenses.

TABLE 5.—PICNIC GROVES

Applications granted	3
Places licensed	3
Fees collected	

The fee established by the Board is \$5. \$15.00

TABLE 6.—SUNDAY SALE OF ICE CREAM, CONFECTIONERY, SODA WATER
OR FRUIT

Applications granted	2,410
Places licensed	2,093
Canceled:	

Surrendered	191
For non-payment	115

Rejected	306
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Transferred	53
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Withdrawn	72
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Revoked	59
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Fees collected	11
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The fee fixed by Statute is not to exceed \$5. \$11,475.00

TABLE 7.—LODGING HOUSES

Applications granted	3,294
Places licensed	2,958
Canceled:	

Surrendered	265
For non-payment	60

325

Rejected	93
Revoked	11
Transferred	92
Withdrawn	16
Fees collected*	\$6,462.00

The fee established by the City is \$2.

* 3 (1932) licenses unpaid.

TABLE 8.—MERRY-GO-ROUNDS, FERRIS WHEELS, ETC.

Applications granted	3
Places licensed	3
Withdrawn	1
Fees collected	\$85.00

The fee established by the Board is \$2.50 for each class for each day licensed.

TABLE 9.—RETAIL VENDORS OF SOFT DRINKS

Applications granted	2,538
Places licensed	2,218
Canceled:	
Surrendered	201
For non-payment	106
	307
Rejected	38
Revoked	13
Transfers granted	71
Transfers rejected	1
Withdrawn	73
Fees collected	\$2,432.00

The fee is established by law, not to exceed \$1.

TABLE 10.—ROLLER SKATING RINKS

Applications granted	2
Places licensed	2
Fees collected	\$50.00

The fee established by the Board is \$25.

TABLE 11.—FIREARMS

Applications granted	14
Places licensed	14
Fees collected	\$70.00

The fee established by the Board is \$5.

TABLE 12.—ENTERTAINMENT, ETC.

Applications granted:	Innholders	17
	Common Victualers	128
	Soft Drinks	7
Canceled:		
Surrendered:	Innholders	1
	Common Victualers	22
	Soft Drinks	1
Nonpayment:	Soft Drinks	2
Rejected:	Common Victualers	7
	Soft Drinks	1
Revoked:	Common Victualers	1
	Soft Drinks	1
Transferred	Common Victualers	1
Places in operation		124
Fees collected		\$25.00

Under the Statute no fee is collectible from persons holding an innholder or common victualer license.

TABLE 13.—MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS

Recording fees	\$256.00
Sale of Firearms books	6.00
Total amount received and paid into the treasury on account of miscellaneous licenses and receipts	\$48,966.00

TABLE 14.—HOLDERS OF LICENSES ARRANGED ACCORDING TO NATIVITY

	Lodging Houses	Common Victualers	Inn-holders	Retail Vendors of Soft drinks	Fruit, Ice Cream, etc.	Fire-arms
Albanian	9	42	—	73	74	—
American	1,403	1,224	53	715	632	7
Armenian	11	45	—	123	118	—
Austrian	15	19	—	23	25	—
Belgian	7	—	—	—	—	—
Canadian	677	151	3	55	56	—
Chinese	—	31	—	—	—	—
Cuban	1	—	—	1	1	—
Czecho Slav	3	1	—	—	—	—
Danish	6	1	—	—	—	—
Dutch	2	—	—	2	2	—
English	104	32	—	42	38	1
Finlander	5	1	—	—	—	—
Filippino	—	2	—	—	—	—
French	14	8	—	6	7	—
German	37	40	—	15	9	—
Grecian	24	368	—	140	155	—
Hungarian	2	—	—	1	1	—
Irish	496	60	1	108	115	—
Italian	25	267	1	461	423	3
Japanese	1	2	—	—	—	—
Latvian	—	7	—	5	3	—
Lithuanian	9	11	—	54	50	—
Norwegian	7	—	—	3	3	—
Polish	60	33	—	71	70	—
Portuguese	15	7	—	4	8	—
Roumanian	1	9	—	10	9	—
Russian	44	337	2	461	452	2
Scotch	52	9	—	8	7	1
South American	1	1	—	1	—	—
Spanish	2	8	1	2	2	—
Swedish	84	14	—	4	3	—
Swiss	—	3	—	1	—	—
Syrian	150	39	—	83	81	—
Turkish	4	18	—	35	36	—
Ukrainian	—	7	—	1	1	—
Welch	1	—	—	—	4	—
West Indian	28	3	—	5	4	—
	3,300	2,800	61	2,513	2,385	14

EXPENDITURES FROM DECEMBER 1, 1931, TO DECEMBER 1, 1932

Personal Service

Commissioners, Secretary and Permanent Employees	\$24,800.00
Temporary employees	512.29

Services Other than Personal

Printing and binding	84.15
Light	135.24
Rent	4,500.00
Communication	316.88
Cleaning	3.00
Investigation, etc.	25.35
General plant repairs	57.75

Equipment

Library	17.60
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Supplies

Office	1,032.98
Food and ice	28.08
Laundry, cleaning, etc.	6.75

 \$31,520.07

LEGISLATION

The legislature of 1932 made no change in the laws relating to the Board or concerning the licenses granted by it.

NEW LEGISLATION

In its report of a year ago, the Board recommended that the law with reference to the sale of cooked and prepared foods on Sunday be liberalized and presented a bill to that effect, which bill did not become law. The Board still believes that our Sunday laws might well be made more liberal in that behalf to the convenience of many and without detracting from the sanctity of the Sabbath.

If the so-called Volstead Act is modified by the Congress before or during the session of the 1933 Legislature, some changes in our laws with reference to the sale of beverages containing alcohol will probably be indicated, but in view of the fact that a commission has been appointed to consider the matter, the Board makes no recommendation. The duty of the Board is, and will be, to carry out to the best of its ability whatever laws may be enacted.

GENERAL MATTERS

All applications for licenses are referred to the Police Department for investigation and a report, which is made in writing giving reasons for disapproval and in some cases for approval. The Board also requires new applicants for liquor, intelligence office, pool and bowling, entertainment and lunch cart licenses to appear before the Board prior to the granting of a license.

Applicants for booths or for dancing must present a plan showing the location and character of the proposed booths or the space for dancing, a copy of which plan is filed with the Board. Booths must be open and not over four feet six inches high, and in some cases less height only is permitted.

If the police report on an application is unfavorable or if there are objections to the granting of a license, a hearing is given.

Close co-operation is maintained with the Building Department of the City, especially with reference to safety from fire of buildings licensed as lodging houses, and with the Health Department of the City as regards health and sanitary conditions on all licensed premises.

The Board endeavors to see to it that no license is granted the exercise of which is likely to cause a nuisance to others and that no license already issued is so exercised as to become a nuisance.

Licenses are not granted to aliens without at least first papers, and voting citizenship is required of some classes of licensees.

Complaints for violation of law or of the terms of a license are usually made by the Police, but sometimes by City departments, Federal authorities and individuals. Information from any source is welcome.

Public hearings are held on all complaints that purport to be sustained by evidence.

At all hearings any person interested may appear with counsel, and if a licensee has no counsel, the Board endeavors to safeguard his or her rights. Nothing in the nature of a penalty is imposed without a hearing.

The Board has harmonious and satisfactory relations with the Police Department, City departments and with the Federal authorities.

DAVID T. MONTAGUE,
ARTHUR J. SELFRIDGE,
MARY E. DRISCOLL,

Licensing Board for the City of Boston.